## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.

Applicant

: Ronald J. Schnipke et al.

Filed

Tech. Center/Art Unit

Examiner

Attorney File No.

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For

: Pallet for Surgical Stapling Cartridge

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandra, VA 22313-1450, on 12-30-03 (date).

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450,

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## **Preliminary Amendment**

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.